

# **Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot**

## ***Macon, GA***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### **BACKGROUND**

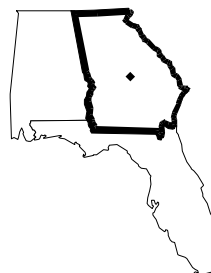
EPA has selected the City of Macon for a Brownfields Pilot. Macon (population 106,640) is located in the middle of Georgia at the crossroads of Interstates 75, 475, and 16. The Pilot targets the Downtown Industrial District (DID), which is bordered by the Ocmulgee River to the north and Central City Park to the northeast. Large floodplains are located at both the eastern and southern borders. The DID is characterized by a combination of commercial, office, public/institutional, and residential structures. The minority population in the DID is 57 percent while the unemployment rate is 10.4 percent; 46.6 percent of residents in the DID live below the poverty line, compared to 20.8 percent for the city as a whole.

The DID is the only area in Macon that has experienced extensive abandonment by business, leaving unused and potentially contaminated properties throughout the target area. Within the 1,700-acre district, more than 500 acres of land currently are vacant. The city plans to identify a brownfields property suitable for the construction of a 25,000-seat sports stadium.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Macon's objective is to encourage reinvestment, promote economic growth and environmental protection, and create jobs in the DID. Pilot activities are directed toward site assessment, cleanup planning,

### **PILOT SNAPSHOT**



*Macon, Georgia*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 1999

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets the 1,700-acre Downtown Industrial District for redevelopment efforts. The city will identify a property in this area suitable for the construction of a 25,000-seat sports stadium.

#### **Contacts:**

Macon-Bibb County Planning  
and Zoning Commission  
(912) 751-7460

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 4  
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

and redevelopment planning for the target area. It is hoped that successful redevelopment in the DID will serve as a catalyst for future economic development projects as stakeholders follow the lessons learned from Pilot activities.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental assessments in the DID to help identify potential sites suitable for the construction of a 25,000-seat sports stadium;
- Developing a consortium made up of brownfields stakeholders, including representatives of neighborhoods in and around the target area; and
- Developing a citizen participation program to keep local residents affected by Pilot activities informed of the project's progress.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*